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If our friends who favor us with manuscripts for publication with have rejected articles returned they must in all cases send stamps for that purpose.

Finance Fowler.

In another place on this page a Newark correspondent sketches the character and political methods of the Hon. CHARLES NEWELL FOWLER, a statesman known from the Delaware to where flows the Bahway, as straight and deep as he. Mr. FOWLER cannot be judged with entire fairness, however, by an alien to his Congress district. In Union, in Morris, in Warren, tenacious is Mr. FOWLER's hold upon the imagination and affections of God fearing and golf playing population. In 1906 he got 19,700 votes, and his Democratic competitor, Farmer JIM MARSH, only 19,208. Farmer JIM had to be a candidate. He is hardy and perennial. He was put up in 1906, we believe, because anybody else could have beaten Mr. FOWLER. Who would take care of the fine fees of the nation if Finance Fowler was not in the House? Tryphons and Succasunna, Parsippany and Allamuchy, where in the Fifth Jersey district he makes his pride in the statesman who makes bills by the bushel on a subject which few people understand and who is never absent from his position when it seems necessary for his reelection that he should be there? We are informed that the colored citizens of the Fifth Jersey district are greatly impressed with the financial genius of this Elizabethan.

In regard to Mr. FOWLER's famous offer to found a library our correspondent is unjust. In an impulse of generosity and before election Mr. FOWLER did, we believe, offer to contribute out of his scanty store for this beneficent purpose. Afterward he saw that it would be wrong to fulfill his promise. It would look like a bribe even if for a good object. It would tend to weaken the self-respect of his constituents. Mr. FOWLER loves his particular town. Mr. FOWLER loves his district with an equal love. Finally, it would be to sanction in cold blood the impulse of a moment. It could never do for Mr. FOWLER's constituents to regard him as impulsive. Reserve, restraint, calculation, deliberation—these are the qualities to be expected of a man who, if he is not the peer of HAMILTON and GALLATIN, as his admirers believe, is at least next by no long interval to COIN HARVEY. So far, then, as Mr. FOWLER disappointed foolish hopes in this library business must approve, not blame him.

This year Mr. FOWLER's prospects are brilliant. Not only has he come grandly to the front with the denunciation of the Aldrich-Vreeland currency law—and we understand that his views are already finding support among the colored citizens of his district—but he has thrown himself on the ample bosom of Mr. TAFT. "Dear old BILL," was in the same college with him at Yale. Have known him all his life. Has been my brother and classmate always. The impression in the Fifth district is that it would be peculiarly hideous to vote against Mr. TAFT's FOWLER; that it would be like voting against Mr. TAFT himself.

Still, as the cruel figures show, a change of 377 votes in 1906 would have taken Finance FOWLER from the marble halls of Congress and given him back to the quarries.

Direct Primaries in Illinois.

The most unusual and exciting political contest Illinois has seen for many years comes to an end to-day, when the voters in the different parties will choose nominees in the direct primary election according to the provisions of the Oglesby law passed by the last Legislature.

Under this law the voters of each party have the right to nominate candidates for office without the usual process of holding conventions. The certificate of the winners in to-day's contest will place before the people of the State the men to be voted for at the next election.

As might have been expected under such a law the crop of candidates is very large, especially for the minor offices. Consequently the voters will have to select their candidates from a mass of names which by comparison will make the Australian ballot seem a simple affair. This will be a severe test of the intelligence, political discrimination and conscientiousness of the voters, and the results of the poll will indicate pretty clearly whether the scheme of direct primaries is practicable.

Chicago will be the hardest test of the new law. Thousands of the voters in that city are but imperfectly acquainted with the English language, and most of these have little if any perception of the merits of the respective candidates and parties. Whether they will abstain from voting and thus leave the selection of nominees to their more intelligent fellow citizens or whether the various organizations will find means to induce them to vote as they wish remains to be seen. If the new law stands the test in Chicago and works well in indicating,

correctly the wishes and intelligence of the people there will be no reason why it might not work well elsewhere in States where there are large cities with a big element of nondescript citizenship. If it fails to meet this test it will be a blow to the new system and it will probably disappear and be reckoned merely as one more of the unsuccessful experiments of American political life.

In the first election under the law the Republicans have shown the greater discipline and political wisdom; as for the Governorship they have only two candidates for nomination, ex-Governor RICHARD YATES and the present Governor, CHARLES S. DENVER. The Democratic situation is badly mixed; there are no less than seven candidates, namely, DOUGLAS PATTON, JOHN P. McGOORTHY, JAMES HAMILTON LEWIS, CHARLES F. GUNTHER, E. R. E. KIMBROUGH, JAMES G. MONROE and last but not least ex-Vice-President ADLAI STEVENSON.

On the Republican side the contest between Governor DENVER and ex-Governor YATES is bitter. YATES is credited with having made DENVER Governor, and the failure of the Governor to come to YATES's support when the latter sought to succeed "Uncle" SHERLEY CULUM as United States Senator is looked upon by the ex-Governor and his followers as rank ingratitude. YATES has back of him the old State organization upon which he chiefly relies and also the following of the William Lorimer wing of Illinois Republicans. The present campaign is generally regarded as the crisis of YATES's career. His defeat at the primaries to-day, following his recent failure in his Senatorial ambitions, would probably end his leadership in Illinois politics.

Among the Democratic aspirants for the Governorship no one pretends to be able to pick the winner. In fact, politicians in both parties are extremely doubtful as to the outcome. The whole matter is up to the people, and what they will do can be determined only by the actual balloting. BRYAN is said to be in favor of STEVENSON's nomination, and that fact may land him first if the Democrats of Illinois attach any importance to the wishes of the "Peoples" in the matter. What makes the situation of national interest is the bitter rivalry between the YATES and Denver wings of the Republican party. YATES, at least, seems to have burned his bridges behind him, and in case of his defeat at the primaries his disgruntled following might make a Democratic victory possible should that party select its strongest man in the primaries to-day.

The race between Senator HOPKINS and the field for the United States Senatorship is of scarcely less interest than that for the Governorship. The rivals of HOPKINS are Illinois's perpetual candidate, ex-Senator BILLY MASON; Congressman GEORGE E. FOSS and WILLIAM G. WEBSTER, a former unsuccessful aspirant for Mr. CULLOM's toga.

Mr. La Follette's New Ally.

In helping to supplant Senator LONG of Kansas by JOSEPH LITTLE BRISTOW of Salina Senator LA FOLLETTE put under an obligation that cannot be evaded the man of whom it has been justly if severely said that he would investigate "his own grandmother."

Battle BOB will have to be on his guard, for his new ally has anything but a lively sense of favors received. He was a friend of CHESTER I. LONG when he, BRISTOW, coveted a sinecure in Panama as a railroad examiner—\$15 a day and expenses and \$5 for a stenographer. Washington had become too sultry and uncomfortable for the sleuth of the Post Office Department. At every turn he met an outraged member of Congress whose name had suffered by contiguity with a convicted felon or grafter in the Bristow record of 120,000 votes. "Coward" and "libeller" were some of the politest terms flung in BRISTOW's direction from the floor of the House. His probe in many cases had gone through the sore into sound flesh and honest men winced.

There could be no doubt that BRISTOW had rendered a public service by his exposures of graft, sloth, waste and inefficiency in the department, but his net had such small meshes that it caught up girl stenographers as well as men with an itching palm, and what was hard and fast custom to Senators and Representatives was converted into crime by the insinuations of the born investigator whose scent led him into undreamed of recesses of veniality. A thing so small as the transmission of a box of cigars by registered mail loomed like a felony to the inquisitorial eye. Peccadilloes were misdemeanors and misdemeanors were crimes. It seemed to be a reflection on Congressmen that they should denounce a man who was doing such a great and good work as BRISTOW, but he was cordially and soulfully hated, and by men who felt themselves wronged as well as by men who had had suspicious relations with the post office grafters. The fact of the matter was, BRISTOW was a demon for zeal to investigate everything and everybody and abnormally short on human nature. Besides, his methods were sensational, and Mr. ROOSEVELT in an excess of enthusiasm had taken the model investigator to his bosom and branded him as of the elect. When BRISTOW left Washington he was, the most unpopular man in the District. His return as a Senator from Kansas will illustrate the possibilities of American politics.

Ingratitude is a charge that men will bring without reserve against JOSEPH L. BRISTOW. He was under obligations to Senator LONG for the Panama sinecure and their relations were intimate, as the Senator proved by reading letters from BRISTOW on the stump during the primary campaign. But BRISTOW deliberately set himself to turn LONG out of his seat and ingloriously succeeded. The President gave ear to BRISTOW, made him grand inquisitor and poured praise like incense upon his head. In one of the letters from BRISTOW which LONG read on the stump the writer advised that the way to get something out of ROOSEVELT was to cajole, flatter and bullyrag him, and boasted that he would like himself to go after the President with the big stick. Mr. ROOSEVELT,

however, will have retired from office when the man who smiles and smiles and can be an investigator still is sworn in as a Senator from Kansas.

The warmest congratulations will come from Mr. LA FOLLETTE of Wisconsin, who will gain as confederate and ally a man who can talk for many working days at a time and has a hair trigger readiness to investigate anything that anybody else proposes to investigate, and is as cold blooded, relentless and smilingly inveterate as Battle BOB himself. There will be great times in the Senate when they get together.

Are There Too Many Theatres?

It did not take a meeting of theatrical managers to make it plain that there are nowadays too many theatres for the plays really worth producing. At least four New York playhouses have been given over permanently to the moving picture shows which, appearing just at the psychological moment, have proved the salvation of establishments that might have been "dark" but for these inexpensive attractions. It is a fact that the cheapness of these shows has appealed to so many during a period when it was necessary to curtail expenses that the business of the vaudeville and cheap melodrama theatres has suffered through their rivalry.

AGUSTIN DALY was always opposed to any unions of managers. He thought that their separate interests were best served through competition and that they were likely to look out for themselves alone when a question that involved their individual welfare was concerned. Certainly he never could have foreseen the day in which managers would unite to limit the number of theatres in order that those controlled by them might be assured of sufficient patronage to recover some of their lost prosperity. He lived in a day when the manager with the good show went out and the poor play fell by the wayside. There were not so many theatres then, and it is certain that no manager suspected the arrival of the time when it would be necessary to rent theatres merely to keep them closed to rival managers who might happen to possess the kind of a play that the public is very keen to see.

Curiously enough, it is never difficult for actors or managers to find capital to build theatres. One of the large estates of this city has invested heavily in theatre property. A new phase of theatre building has lately tended to increase the supply. It was enough a few years ago if a properly boomed mediocrity was made a star. That distinction is now only a stepping stone to the greater honor of having a theatre named after the actor or actress who has advanced so far on the road to fame.

Unsatisfactory plays continuing to be performed before scant audiences are phenomena that frequently puzzle the observer. He is told that no other satisfactory play is obtainable and that the theatre must be kept occupied. It can readily be seen that under such circumstances that particular playhouse is superfluous. If it had been occupied by a success, however, nobody would have thought of closing it up for the sake of its rivals. Theatres would not be too numerous for the public if there were more plays worth the money that is asked to see them. Moving pictures are successfully filling some of the large theatres because they are, in proportion to their price, quite as good as the cheap vaudeville shows or melodramas. The public wants its money's worth in the theatres as well as in a department store. A little more accurate adjustment of the price to the quality of the offerings in many theatres might show that after all they were not so unnecessary as to make it advisable to shut them up.

Germany and China.

It is obvious enough that by the triumph of the Young Turk party in the Ottoman Empire Germany has lost in an hour the influence which for years she has labored to acquire over the ruler of that country. Of late attention has been so concentrated on Constantinople that another reverse almost simultaneously suffered by Germany has been overlooked. We refer to the Pekin Government's refusal to permit the German Emperor to assume the protectorate of Turkish subjects residing in China.

The motive prompting the Berlin Government to propose the protectorate is obvious enough. The close relations which have hitherto existed between the German Emperor and the Ottoman sovereign would be notably strengthened if Turkey should transfer the right of protecting her subjects in China from France to Germany. Moreover, by the same transaction Kaiser WILLIAM II., who already had come to be regarded as an ally of Islam, would have stood forth before the world as in a special sense the defender of Mohammedans in the Far East. That a good deal of pressure had to be applied to the Sultan ABDUL HAMID in order to induce him to withdraw a tutelary function which originally was entrusted to France as early as the reign of FRANCIS I. and which has been exercised by the last named Power uninterruptedly for 170 years may be taken for granted. That concession once gained, however, we might naturally have assumed that the proposed change would encounter no opposition at Pekin.

This has not proved to be the case, however. On the contrary, the Chinese Government has absolutely refused to entertain the proposal and has informed Emperor WILLIAM's representative at Pekin that Germany had no conceivable claim to pose as Islam's supreme protector in the Far East. This too although the outbreak of a revolution in European Turkey had not yet made it patent that henceforth the personal predilections of the Sultan ABDUL HAMID would be of small account in State affairs. To what should we attribute the rebuff administered to Germany? According to a credible report Great Britain and Japan combined with France to bring to naught the arrangement made by Germany with Turkey. France, reasonably enough, desired to prevent Germany from acquiring what she herself has possessed for nearly two centuries; Japan

for her part might have been expected to resent the assumption by Germany of tutelary rights over any section of China's population; while as for Great Britain, she could not wish to witness an increase of German prestige in the Far East, much less to see her figure in the eyes of the Mohammedans of India as a champion of Islam.

For the present then France will continue to discharge the duty of protecting Ottoman subjects in China; but if the Turkish reformers carry out their plans they will ultimately take measures to protect themselves.

Mr. BRYAN's finance committee includes plutocrats like MORRIS CINCINNATI WETMORE, WILLIAM A. CLARK, TOM JOHNSON, FRANCIS G. NEWLANDS, but wealth is never predatory if its owner is willing to vote for BRYAN. But why is the Hon. GEORGE FRED WILLIAMS a member of this committee? We don't mean that he isn't formidable, but surely he would have preferred a place on the committee on speakers with Blithering BOB GLENN of North Carolina, the Hon. CHAMP CLARK, the Hon. JOHN JAY LEWIS of Ohio, the Hon. CHARLES ARNETT TOWNE, the Hon. AUGUSTUS THOMAS and Captain BEN THILMAN. And that other old friend Terrymore of South Dakota should have been sent over the spillbinders. And where is that prize Brazilian Alfalfa BILL? Yet no committee is needed to start or could possibly stop him. He and the Cowboy Mayor are the awaited orators, no matter what older stagers may be on the bills.

I am satisfied that Mr. Taft is too broad a man to name his successor. The Hon. JOHANNES BRYAN, JR.

Mr. BRYAN was hard to satisfy, but time and golf have stolen away his fears. When we remember that the election of Mr. BOURNE to the Senate was one of the chief fruits of reform and newfangled ways in Oregon we are the more convinced that Mr. BOURNE, simple as he sometimes chooses to appear, is about the shrewdest humorist in these United States.

A member of the second class of midshipmen at the United States Naval Academy, dismissed "for using obscene language" to an enlisted man, turned up at Oyster Bay on Wednesday to persuade the President to reinstate him, although Mr. ROOSEVELT had approved the findings in the case. To account for his presence in Oyster Bay on such a mission the disgraced midshipman said that he had heard that the President would pardon the eight cadets of the Military Academy dismissed for hazing and he thought that clemency might also be extended to him.

Doubtless the youngster had proved himself unfit to command American sailors, but his logic was sound enough—sound as it was vicious.

By what authority does THE SUN speak of the erudite editor of the Charleston News and Courier as a "booby" and "stupid"?

By authority of the commission we have held from the people since September 8, 1903, empowering us to confer from time to time appropriate and eubonious titles upon citizens whom we may regard as worthy of the high distinction.

The Hon. GEORGE W. DONAGHY, who will be the next Governor of Arkansas, looks to a sane and prosperous future as he sheds a few feathers from the Low Combed Rooster.

There will be a cessation of demagoguery and head headed cane combats with politicians and appeal to the passions and prejudices of the people with an eye to the coming election. The conservative will be given to methods for the advancement of Arkansas.

So State after State takes itself off the map of demagoguery. Georgia is in the same asylum. Arkansas is going there. North Carolina and Alabama have stopped having fits. Texas is resting quietly. Who knows that Oklahoma is incurable?

Is "Fingy" trying to "quess" the Peersless? Why is that Buffaloian sage so eager to have Mr. BRYAN make as many speeches as possible in this State? In 1906 and 1900 Mr. BRYAN's vote was smallest where he talked most. Have the "after effects" of his eloquence diminished?

The subjoined account of a remarkable invention of a sportive nature is taken from the veracious and candid columns of the Daily Local News of West Chester, Pa.:

"West Chester boys have invented a new device for sport of a unique design which takes skill to execute. It consists of two sticks as long as an ordinary cane, tied together at one end with a string. A loose loop is spun on this string and thrown into the air, the trick being to catch the loop on the stick again in its descent, and spin it as before. Some of the lads have become quite expert at the game."

This seems to upset the theory of the ancient Chinese origin of diabolo.

That sturdy old optimist Count ZEPPELIN is to be congratulated upon the generous financial help which his fellow countrymen are giving him in the hour of disaster. It is money that makes the airship go.

Call for a Chair of Truthfulness.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: Now that the universities and higher academies are arranging for the coming year, I suggest the addition of a new department with a competent professor in charge, to be devoted to the education of the truth telling habit. It is becoming so obsolete in this country that its creation in it seems to have become a necessity.

The examples of those to whom the youth have been accustomed to look fall now to be of benefit, and instruction seems to be called for.

NEW YORK, AUGUST 7.

By the Latest Mail From Hades.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: My friend Thompson and I have just read in this morning's Sun your article on the decision of the Supreme Court in the case of the United States vs. the American Tobacco Company. It is a practice which brutalizes those who indulge in it on others and degrades those who endure it. No citizen should be so treated.

NEW BRITAIN, AUGUST 5. AN AMERICAN.

Breaking a Preacher's Back.

Knicker—Least said is soonest mended. The shirt!

The Ships.

I sent them out across the foam And with anticipations of the coming year I waited to see my ships come home.

I planned their cargoes rich and rare, The products of the distant lands, The prices of unfurled streams.

And treasure bright beyond compare.

They met with competition keen, For others sailed at smaller cost, Mine came to port all peppered, But with no profits to be seen.

Now they shall make no further trips Unless the only hope here lies— Some more sagacious shall arise And kindly subsidize my ships.

MOLANDERSON WILSON.

FORAKER AND THE WHISKY INSURRECTION.

COLUMBUS, Aug. 6.—It is the figure of Foraker after all. Foraker the fighter, Foraker the opponent of Presidents, past, present and to be, that to the audience outside dominates the Ohio situation. Senator Foraker's personality, his potency for harm or help in the Ohio campaign—these are the things of which one hears much in New York and in Lincoln. Therefore it comes as a distinct shock to find that in Columbus, where Foraker ruled so long as Governor, his apparition is neither fearful nor fateful for the Taft men.

Outside of Ohio there is the impression that it lies in Senator Foraker's power to do infinite harm to Taft in Ohio; his machine is regarded as capable of accomplishing almost everything short of the actual delivery of Ohio to Bryan. Indeed, there are Democrats who have suggested that even this was possible, Democrats living outside of Ohio. In Columbus, however, the wisest opinion is that Foraker's influence upon national affairs with a word.

The truth is that the importance of Foraker in the minds of the local Republican leaders is to outward appearance a thing apart from national politics. It is a State question. Senator Foraker's term expires in March, and Congressman Burton and a number of other candidates are in the field. The present Legislature is Republican on a vote of 19 to 17. The liquor fight centres about the Legislature. It is to control this body that the Democrats and the liquor interests are making their hardest fight this year.

On this subject, moreover, Senator Foraker recently said:

"Let us not talk about the question of who is to be Senator until a Republican Legislature has been chosen." This was said as a leader. The Foraker following is not large, but it is active. There are a dozen candidates at least in which a small Republican defection would change the result. That the Foraker contingent prefers to see a Democrat rather than Burton represent the State in the United States Senate is well known. Here is the real Foraker problem in Ohio, at least in the minds of the local observers.

It is a problem, too, Republican leaders who will talk about everything else become clamorous when this topic is broached, having manifestly resolved upon a policy of silence. They are, it is true, encouraging a number of candidates to make a fight for Foraker's place, apparently with the notion that this may help legislative candidates in various localities. There is also the wide suspicion that they are quietly planning to slaughter any avowed Foraker candidate for the Legislature. Thus it would appear that both sides, Foraker and anti-Foraker, prefer a Democrat to a factional opponent.

In public, at least, there has as yet been no discussion of the course to be adopted toward Foraker. He may be asked to speak in the campaign; he may not. If he is asked there may be an instance that his speeches be submitted, be vetoed. In a word, the conditions may be made intolerable for him. Foraker has the limit of his patience. Then the local prophets say, "Foraker passes off the stage." They are so certain about it, too, speak of it with a conviction that is startling, since it is a politician after all that they are eliminating forever.

Back of the Foraker phase and the Senate situation there rises another interesting suggestion. Is it only a whisper as yet, but it gains steadily. It is the suggestion that Arthur I. Vorys, Mr. Taft's "Little Hannan," is to be the real Republican candidate to succeed Foraker. The Hitchcock-Vorys affair has been accommodated if not actually settled, Mr. Taft has smiled graciously upon Vorys and named him "Chief of Staff." Vorys then, so the whisper goes, is the man to send to Washington, the man who will be "in on the ground" and gain the upper hand in the Ohio campaign. It is only a whisper as yet, but it gains steadily.

It remains to mention of George B. Cox of Cincinnati, the boss whom Taft once denounced so roundly. But "Brother Charley" has a newspaper and a fortune in Cincinnati and Cox has just come back from exile. Besides, he seems to have something of the Tammany regard for regularity. The liquor question is going to bring out the hidden forces in Cincinnati; if will lose Hamilton county, normally Republican by 80,000, for the State ticket, so the well informed say, and will largely reduce the majority on the national ticket, but Cox is not blamed for this. That he hates Mr. Taft goes without saying, that he is vindictive and resentful every one in Ohio knows, but the conviction prevails that self-interest will keep him regular even if it does not make him overactive.

So much has been written of George B. Cox in recent years that it may seem presumptuous to attempt to add anything. Yet the stranger who enters Ohio politics by way of Cincinnati must get the same impression of Cox that the foreigner receives of "Big Tim" Sullivan when he attacks America by way of the Bowery. There is, too, something malignantly fascinating about this man Cox, something impressive in his mere physical bulk, suggesting Odell in the heyday of his physical and political strength, a revelation of brute force which makes him the perfect personification of the boss, whose right to rule is proved by depth of neck and the weight of hands rather than by any quality of mind.

There is a rumor in Cincinnati which locally has the authority of title of "Over the Rhine," although "the Rhine," alas, is only a canal. Here in a little beer saloon George B. Cox holds court each afternoon. There is something immemorial about this custom. The boss sits at a table, right and left are Hyinkia and Herman, his lieutenants. Thither come all who would have public honor or share in public plunder—candidates for office, the smooth and contractors for the sewers. To them Hyinkia may speak and Herman may talk. But always, so the legend goes, Cox is silent, speaks not at all, opens his mouth only to drink his beer—and never, never buys.

To Cox once, so the story goes, there came the leaders of the Cincinnati bar to ask him to entertain a able and upright Judge whom he intended to replace with a henchman. "What there is it for you fellows?" Does he decide cases your way?" queried Cox. Listening to explanations he said finally: "Get a lot of more lawyers to come and tell me the same thing." When almost the whole bar had paid its court, then Cox spurned them all, nominated his henchman and—elected him. This is Boss Cox's way.

gather from the general comment that it is not from factional quarters that the Republicans expect great trouble in the coming campaign. It is not Foraker or Cox, but the eternal liquor question that troubles them. This liquor question has a laugh in every phase, in Ohio and Indiana, the laugh that comes inevitably whenever a moral issue falls into the capacious maws of practical politicians. The temperance movement, which has been the life and the motive power of an edifice missionary in the midst of a cannibal congregation. To be sure, the Republican politicians are doubtful whether it is a blessing or an affliction, poison or Elijah's manna. They must perforce chew and find out later.

Once the liquor question is eliminated,

however, the stream of political affairs in Ohio runs turbid and muddy, suggests Gowanus Canal rather than a Vermont trout brook. In truth, the mere visitor cannot sound its depth at all, must be satisfied with the assurances of the experienced, and they do not differ. To one and all the fate of Foraker seems settled beyond peradventure, they say. At all events, this is the real thing in the situation, Foraker is not credited with any decisive influence in the State. That Foraker and the "whiskey insurrection" may together change the complexion of the Legislature is conceded, an even bet at Columbus in early August. But this is outside of the scope of national affairs, and there, after all, the experienced place both Foraker and Cox.

GENERAL WILSON ON CUBA.

Closer Economic Relations Plainly Demanded in the Common Interest.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: General James H. Wilson is neither a novice nor a mere theorist in the matter of our relations with the island of Cuba. His opinions, as presented in your paper of August 6, are sane and sound and worthy of careful consideration. The view that the Cuban problem is fundamentally economic rather than political has found expression repeatedly. General Wilson's argument is made in the largest interest of both countries, but the control of the situation appears with the smaller interests. The dominating influence is that of the producers of cane sugar, of beet sugar, of tobacco and of citrus fruits in this country.

For some mysterious reason the American people close their eyes to the fact that the adoption of a policy tending to enrich our neighbors would be a stride in the direction of our greatest prosperity. This is particularly the case in our relations with Cuba and with Canada. The inclusion within the boundaries of the United States of the territory acquired by the Louisiana purchase in 1803, the Oregon territory in 1846 and of the territory secured by the Mexican cession of 1848 made those areas rich and increased beyond measure the actual and potential wealth of the United States. The same principle applied in our economic but not in our political relations with Cuba and with Canada now, and perhaps with Mexico, Central America and the West Indies generally. It is not, would unquestionably result in a similar enrichment of those lands and of the United States.

The wisdom of any considerable extension perhaps of any extension whatever, of our political relations with Cuba is a matter upon which intelligent men may and do hold widely differing opinions. The wisdom of an extension of our economic boundaries should be more clearly seen than it is.

WASHINGTON, August 6.

Annexation Must Come.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: Thanks are due to General Wilson for his clear and forceful statement on Cuban affairs in this morning's Sun.

His views should meet with universal approval.

But he does not go far enough. Cuba and the United States should be more closely connected than they are.

It should have been so arranged at the inception. Sooner or later it must come.

New York, August 6. E. T. W.

FOWLER OF ELIZABETH.

An Appreciation of His Talents and Public Services.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: I have just read with a great deal of interest the editorial in to-day's Sun of "The Fowler Impulse in Education."

It is a masterpiece of the kind of which you have struck the keynote of "Fowlerism," when you say:

"To those of our readers who do not grasp the significance of these momentous phrases we can only say that they are the words of a man who has seen the light."

Mr. Fowler hopes to do his ploughing and his planting.

The Hon. Charles N. Fowler has depended upon the stability of long suffering and unassuming public ever since he stepped into the political arena. Endowed with a large lunged, resonant variety of canned eloquence that would shame the Peersless One himself, he has been a subject for his kind in out of the draught.

Fowler's next move (just before election, of course) was to announce to the citizens of his city that he was stepping into the life of any man who appreciates greatness in any line of life. While I had the good fortune to meet him many times during the last twenty years, there was one special night, February 19, 1906, in the case of the Lotus Club over a Welsh rabbit, when he was full of reminiscences so interesting that none of the listeners could ever forget it.

But the Fowler of to-day is not yet to come. We left the club together, and on the way home he told me a curious thing concerning a man writing. He said that he had found when he was a young man that he had in him and he often made his greatest hits. "For instance," when I wrote "The Henrietta" I knew nothing of the subject, therefore approached the subject from a new angle. I was drawing the character of a greenhorn in the street, and my own lack of familiarity with Street talk helped me to help his hindrance. He had done as well as I had been an operator there for years."

The readers of THE SUN who saw Robert in the greenhorn character will never forget it. The quiet, gentle spirit of Emerson Howard, I am sure, impressed every one who ever knew him that he was worthy of the high place he has gained in the dramatic world of the stage. He is a man who has done as well as I have been an operator there for years."

NEW YORK, AUGUST 7. J. H. JOHNSON.

More Merciless Dangers.

From The Lancet.

Spontaneous combustion is well known to be the act of micro-organisms. The firing of a haystack is nearly always the work of a bacterial incendiary. Barns, granaries and spinning works have thus been destroyed in many instances. The powerful powers of micro-organisms. The carefully gathered crop of cotton or hops may fall to the same destructive agencies. The category may be extended to include the decay of foodstuffs. Even lampblack, charcoal, coal and peat are found to be readily oxidized by a common organism that after all the micro-organisms may account for the spontaneous heating of coal, for the awful disaster of the coal mine. In human history there have been several appalling disasters arising out of great fires. The most recent of these has been the outbreak of the fire in the coal mine at the mine in the coal mine. It is thus possible that the tiny, minute organism has been guilty of unthinking vast pent up forces.

Poiling Pines in the Palmiste State.